

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NATO MIN: CEREMONIAL OPENING, STATEMENT OF PRIME
MINISTER TRUDEAU

THE FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU
AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING
IN OTTAWA, JUNE 18:

"MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, YOUR EXCELLENCIES,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

"I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU TO
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CANADA. FOR SOME OF YOU THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT HERE IN

YOUR CAPACITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER; FOR OTHERS IT IS A RETURN TO A CITY THAT HAS WELCOMED YOU OFTEN BEFORE.

"THIS IS THE THIRD OCCASION ON WHICH THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE IN CANADA. THAT IT SHOULD DO SO ON ITS IMPORTANT 25TH ANNIVERSARY IS A MATTER OF PRIDE TO ME AND, IN KNOW, TO CANADIANS. THIS GATHERING LENDS FURTHER EMPHASIS TO THE IMPORTANCE WHICH CANADA ATTACHES TO WESTERN EUROPE AND TO OUR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING CO-OPERATION AMONG OUR ATLANTIC PARTNERS.

"I THINK IT PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE THAT WE ARE GATHERED TODAY IN A BUILDING WHICH SYMBOLIZES TO ALL CANADIANS OUR DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES. IN THIS CHAMBER, AND IN ITS COMPANION ROOM DOWN THE CORRIDOR, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE GATHER REGULARLY TO DEBATE AND DECIDE THE ISSUES WHICH DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF OUR SOCIETY. HERE IS FIXED THE DIRECTION WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY CANADA. HERE ARE CONSIDERED THOSE EVENTS AND ISSUES WHICH REFLECT THE EXPERIENCE, AND TRACE THE ASPIRATIONS, OF AN ENTIRE PEOPLE. IN PERIODS OF PEACE OR OF CONFLICT, IN DAYS OF OPTIMISM OR OF DESPERATION, CANADIANS EMPLOY IN THIS BUILDING THOSE TIME HONOURED PRACTICES WHICH HAVE GUARANTEED TO THEM THEIR LIBERTY AS INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR INDEPENDENCE AS A NATION.

"THERE ARE BUILDINGS SIMILAR TO THIS IN EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES. EACH OF THEM SERVES TO RECALL THE PROUD HERITAGE OF DEMOCRATIC THOUGHT TO WHICH WE ALL LAY CLAIM. THOSE BUILDINGS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO NATO IN THE LONG RUN THAN ANY ARRAY OF WEAPONS. FOR IF THERE IS AN INGREDIENT WHICH SHOULD BE PRIZED BY EACH OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR 20TH CENTURY COMMUNITY OF NATIONS, IT IS SURELY THE ROLE PLAYED BY OUR COUNTRYMEN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRUCTURE OF FREEDOM; LIBERTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, RATIONAL THOUGHT, TOLERANCE OF DIVERSITIES, DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. IF THE VITALITY OF THIS COMMUNITY IS TO BE MAINTAINED,

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IT WILL NOT BE ONLY THROUGH MIGHT OF ARMAMENTS, IT WILL BE BECAUSE OUR ORGANIZATION, IN SPITE OF SOME FAILINGS, WILL HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REFLECTING IN ITS POLICIES AND IN ITS ACTIONS THE DESIRES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC REGION TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THEIR TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES OF LIBERAL THOUGHT AND CO-OPERATIVE ACTION.

"THE IDEAS WHICH SPAWNED THE CIVILIZATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA ARE UNIQUE. THEY CAME INTO BEING ONLY AFTER OVERCOMING GREAT ODDS AND IMMENSE DIVERSITY. THEY PRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT PHENOMENON WHICH SO MANY OF US NOW TAKE FOR GRANTED BUT WHICH MUST BE NURTURED AND GUARDED, WHICH IS STILL ALIEN TO MILLIONS - THE PHENOMENON OF FREE MEN WITH FREE MINDS IN FREE SOCIETIES. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE ARE THE BIRTHRIGHT OF MEN AND WOMEN EVEN IN THE ATLANTIC REGION. THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL STRUCTURES TO WHICH WE HERE ATTACH SUCH IMPORTANCE WILL FLOURISH UNAIDED. THE GROWTH, INDEED THE SURVIVAL, OF THE CIVILIZATION WHICH WE HAVE DEVELOPED ON THE SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN NEEDS CONSTANT ATTENTION TO GUARD IT FROM THREATS WITHOUT AND WITHIN.

"OUR DISTINCTION AS AN ALLIANCE - A DISTINCTION UNIQUE IN HISTORY - IS THAT WE ARE NOT SIMPLY A GROUP OF NATIONS FORCED TOGETHER BY OUTWARD CIRCUMSTANCES OR BY GEOGRAPHY. MOSTLY, WE ARE NEIGHBOURS THAT FIND COHESION IN OUR COMMON IDEALS. WE ARE HARMONIOUS BECAUSE OF OUR PRINCIPLES; YET WE ARE SOMETIMES FRACTIOUS FOR THE SAME REASON. WE APPRECIATE THAT CO-OPERATION IS ESSENTIAL AND THAT OUR COMMON INTERESTS DEMAND FULL AND TIMELY CONSULTATION; YET WE INSIST ON PRESERVING OUR IDEOSYNCRASIES, AND NURTURING OUR INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS. IT IS WELL THAT WE DO FOR THIS IS OUR STRENGTH. OUR STRENGTH IS NOT IN OUR UNIFORMITY BUT IN OUR DIVERSITY. WE ARE DEVOTED TO PRINCIPLES, NOT TO EXPEDIENCY. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH HUMANITY, NOT WITH POWER.

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"WE HAVE THE CONFIDENCE AND THE COURAGE TO FACE THE COMPLICATED NEGOTIATIONS OF DETENTE. WE HAVE THE WISDOM AND THE STAMINA TO RETAIN OUR PREPAREDNESS TO DEFEND OURSELVES WHILE WE DO SO.

"THIS ASSOCIATION WAS CREATED BY MEN POSSESSED OF WISDOM AND TENACITY. THEIR CONCERN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO WAS THE PROTECTION OF OUR WAY OF LIFE FROM WHAT THEY PERCEIVED TO BE A COMMON EXTERNAL THREAT. IT IS TO THEIR CREDIT THAT NATO'S DISCHARGE OF THIS, ITS PRIMARY ROLE, HAS BEEN WHOLLY SUCCESSFUL. TODAY, HOWEVER, OUR CIVILIZATION FACES ANY NUMBER OF THREATS, AND ANY NUMBER OF CHALLENGES: SOME OF THEM FAMILIAR TO THOSE MEN WHO SIGNED THE NORTH ATLANTIC

TREAY, SOME OF THEM UNFORESEEN THEN BY EVEN THE MOST FARSIGHED. IT HAS BEEN OUR WILLINGNESS AS PARTNERS IN NATO TO FACE P TO THESE ISSUES OF CHANGE THAT HAS PROVED THE STRENGTH OF THIS ALLIANCE.

"IT WILL BE OUR SILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO FACE ISSUES OF CHANGE WHICH WILL PROVE OUR STRENGTH IN THE FUTURE: PROBLEMS WHICH RESPECT NO GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDS YET WHICH ARE THE MORE INSISTENT AND THE MORE PERSISTENT AS A RESULT. FOOD, POPULATION, ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT. THESE WORDS DO NOT APPEAR IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. YET TODAY NONE OF US WOULD DENY THEIR RELEVANCE TO OUR JOINT ENTERPRISE. NOR WOULD ANY OF US SUGGEST THEY HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH THE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP. THE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF THAT RELATIONSHIP IS A NECESSARY PRE-REQUISITE TO THE CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT AND APPLICATION OF RESOURCES NECESSARY TO TACKLE THOSE GLOBAL PROBLEMS.

"TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING ITS BIRTH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE HAS PROVED BEYOND QUESTION ITS VALUE AND ITS ORGANIC STRENGTH. THE PROOF, AS WEL WELL KNOW, HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN READILY ACCEPTED. DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES ARE NOT WILLING WITHOUT DEMONSTRATED NEED TO DEDICATE PRECIOUS RESOURCES TO DEFENCE. HAD UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS ASSOCIATION NOT REMAINED TRUE TO THE CONCERNS OF ITS PEOPLES, IT WOULD HAVE FORFEITED BOTH ITS VITALITY AND ITS WILL. THAT LESSON MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS. WE WILL REMAIN STRONG AS AN ALLIANCE ONLY SO LONG AS WE RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL. WE WILL INCREASE THE SUPPORT OF OUR PEOPLES ONLY IF WE REFLECT THEIR CONCERN FOR QUALITY OF LIFE, FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

"IN THIS ASSOCIATION OUR MOTIVATION IS NOT SIMPLY ONE OF REACTING TO EXTERNAL THREAT OR TO AN ALIENIDELOGY. OUR DEDICATION SHOULD BE TO THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL. OUR MESSAGE IS TO FREE MEN EVERYWHERE, AND ESPECIALLY TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD WHO HAVE YET TO CHOOSE THEIR POLITICAL COMMITMENT. WE MUST MISS NO OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, AND THROUGH OTHER WAYS, TO SPEAK TO THEM THAT MILITARY STRENGTH IS NOT OUR ULTIMATE GOAL; THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT IS WITH THE HUMAN CONDITION. TO TELL THEM THAT IN ORDER TO SUCCEED, OUR LIVES AND OUR LIBERTY MUST BE GUARDED

AGAINST ATTACK FROM THOSE WHO FEAR FREEDOM MORE
THAN THEY FEAR WAR.

"IN YOU PROCEEDINGS THIS WEEK I KNOW THAT
YOUR FOCUS WILL BE ON THESE PRINCIPLES AND HOW THEY
CAN BE APPLIED EFFECTIVELY IN THE FUTURE. I WISH
YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR ENDEAVOURS." KISSINGER

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